



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 179**

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5229

*House of Representatives, April 4, 2018*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. VERRENGIA of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DASHBOARD CAMERAS WITH A REMOTE RECORDER AND DIGITAL DATA STORAGE DEVICES OR SERVICES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-277b of the 2018 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The Office of Policy and Management shall, within available  
5 resources, administer a grant program to provide grants-in-aid to  
6 reimburse (1) each municipality for the costs associated with the  
7 purchase by such municipality of body-worn recording equipment [.]  
8 or electronic defense weapon recording equipment for use by the  
9 sworn members of such municipality's police department or for use by  
10 constables, police officers or other persons who perform criminal law  
11 enforcement duties under the supervision of a resident state trooper  
12 serving such municipality, and digital data storage devices or services,

13 provided such equipment and device or service conforms to the  
14 minimal technical specifications approved pursuant to subsection (b)  
15 of section 29-6d, if applicable, and (2) any municipality making a first-  
16 time purchase of one or more dashboard cameras with a remote  
17 recorder or replacing one or more dashboard cameras purchased prior  
18 to December 31, 2010, with one or more dashboard cameras with a  
19 remote recorder. Any such municipality may apply for such grants-in-  
20 aid to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in such  
21 manner as prescribed by said secretary. Such grants-in-aid shall be  
22 distributed as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

23 (b) (1) (A) Any municipality that purchased such body-worn  
24 recording equipment, [or] electronic defense weapon recording  
25 equipment or digital data storage devices or services, made a first-time  
26 purchase of one or more dashboard cameras with a remote recorder or  
27 replaced one or more dashboard cameras purchased prior to December  
28 31, 2010, with one or more dashboard cameras with a remote recorder  
29 during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018, [and  
30 digital data storage devices or services during the fiscal year ending  
31 June 30, 2017,] shall, within available resources, be reimbursed for up  
32 to one hundred per cent of the costs associated with such purchases,  
33 provided the costs of such digital data storage services shall not be  
34 reimbursed for a period of service that is longer than one year, and  
35 provided further that in the case of reimbursement for costs associated  
36 with the purchase of body-worn recording equipment, such body-  
37 worn recording equipment is purchased in sufficient quantity, as  
38 determined by the chief of police in the case of a municipality with an  
39 organized police department or, where there is no chief of police, the  
40 warden of the borough or the first selectman of the municipality, as the  
41 case may be, to ensure that sworn members of such municipality's  
42 police department or constables, police officers or other persons who  
43 perform criminal law enforcement duties under the supervision of a  
44 resident state trooper serving such municipality are supplied with  
45 such equipment while interacting with the public in such sworn  
46 members', such constables', such police officers' or such persons' law  
47 enforcement capacity.

48 (B) Any municipality that purchased such body-worn recording  
49 equipment or digital data storage devices or services on or after  
50 January 1, 2012, but prior to July 1, 2016, shall be reimbursed for costs  
51 associated with such purchases, but not in an amount to exceed the  
52 amount of grant-in-aid such municipality would have received under  
53 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision if such purchases had been made  
54 in accordance with said subparagraph (A).

55 (C) Any municipality that was reimbursed under subparagraph (B)  
56 of this subdivision for body-worn recording equipment and that  
57 purchased additional body-worn recording equipment during the  
58 fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018, shall, within  
59 available resources, be reimbursed for up to one hundred per cent of  
60 the costs associated with such purchases, provided such equipment is  
61 purchased in sufficient quantity, as determined by the chief of police in  
62 the case of a municipality with an organized police department or,  
63 where there is no chief of police, the warden of the borough or the first  
64 selectman of the municipality, as the case may be, to ensure that sworn  
65 members of such municipality's police department or constables or  
66 other persons who perform criminal law enforcement duties under the  
67 supervision of a resident state trooper serving such municipality are  
68 supplied with such equipment while interacting with the public in  
69 such sworn members', such constables', such police officers' or such  
70 persons' law enforcement capacity.

71 (2) Any municipality that was not reimbursed under subdivision (1)  
72 of this subsection and that purchased such body-worn recording  
73 equipment or electronic defense weapon recording equipment, digital  
74 data storage devices or services, [or for] made a first-time purchase of  
75 one or more dashboard cameras with a remote recorder or replaced  
76 one or more dashboard cameras purchased prior to December 30, 2010,  
77 with one or more dashboard cameras with a remote recorder during  
78 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, shall, within available resources,  
79 be reimbursed for up to fifty per cent of the costs associated with such  
80 purchases, provided the costs of such digital data storage services shall  
81 not be reimbursed for a period of service that is longer than one year.

82 (c) For the purposes of this section, "electronic defense weapon  
83 recording equipment" means an electronic defense weapon that is  
84 equipped with electronic audio and visual recording equipment,  
85 "electronic defense weapon" has the same meaning as provided in  
86 section 53a-3, "dashboard camera with a remote recorder" means a  
87 camera that affixes to a dashboard or windshield of a police vehicle  
88 that electronically records video of the view through the vehicle's  
89 windshield and has an electronic audio recorder that may be operated  
90 remotely.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	7-277b
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**PS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

#### ***Municipal Impact:***

Municipalities	Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

### ***Explanation***

There is a potentially significant revenue gain to municipalities resulting from the bill, which extends reimbursements by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to municipalities who wish to replace their dashboard cameras purchased before December 31, 2010. To the extent a municipality opts to replace these dashboard cameras, they would receive a significant reimbursement under OPM.

### **Body Camera Bond Funds**

The body-worn camera purchase program, which was expanded to allow for reimbursements for first-time purchase of dashboard cameras in PA 17-225, is funded through General Obligation (GO) bond funds. The program has been authorized for \$12 million in net bond funds since its inception in 2015<sup>1</sup>. As of February 17<sup>th</sup> 2018, the

<sup>1</sup> \$3 million of the original \$15 million authorization was cancelled by PA 16-4 MSS.

unallocated bond balance available to the program is approximately \$7.4 million. The bill does not change GO bond authorizations relevant to the program.

Future General Fund debt service costs may be incurred sooner under the bill to the degree that it causes authorized GO bond funds to be expended more rapidly than they otherwise would have been.

There is potential for municipalities who purchase or have purchased items from the expanded allowable item list, as described in the bill, to seek increased or additional reimbursements.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5229*****AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DASHBOARD CAMERAS WITH A REMOTE RECORDER AND DIGITAL DATA STORAGE DEVICES OR SERVICES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the types of equipment eligible for reimbursement, within available resources, under a law enforcement recording equipment grant program administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary.

The bill expands the program to include reimbursing municipalities that replace dashboard cameras purchased before December 31, 2010 with those with a remote recorder in FYs 17 and 18.

The bill also requires municipalities that are not reimbursed for such replacement dashboard cameras to be reimbursed, within available resources, for up to 50% of the costs for cameras purchased in FY 19.

The bill also (1) extends the deadline, from the end of FY 17 to the end of FY 18, to purchase digital data storage devices or services eligible for reimbursement and (2) specifies that reimbursable body-worn recording equipment is for use by law enforcement, as opposed to the municipality generally.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/16/2018)